

Appln. No. 09/667,390  
Amendment dated June 13, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 69-71, 76, 77 and 80, and amend claims 67, 79 and 81-83 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:

photographing means having a series photographing capability for acquiring image data of a subject;

positioning means for executing positioning to obtain  
5 positional information;

series photographing instruction means for giving a series photographing instruction to said photographing means to carry out series photographing;

series photographing control means for performing such  
10 control as to cause said photographing means to execute series photographing to acquire a plurality of photographed images in

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response to said series photographing instruction given by said series photographing instruction means;

15 first positioning timing control means for controlling said timing in such a way that said positioning means executes positioning to acquire first positional information before or immediately after said series photographing instruction is given by said series photographing instruction means;

20 second positioning timing control means for controlling said timing in such a way that said positioning means executes positioning to acquire second positional information immediately before or immediately after series photographing by said series photographing control means is finished;

25 positional information computing means for computing new positional information using said first and second positional information; and

30 memory control means for storing said positional information computed by said positional information computing means in said memory means in association with said plurality of photographed images acquired by said series photographing control means.

Claims 17-38 (Cancelled).

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Claim 39 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:

a photographing device having a series photographing capability which acquires image data of a subject;

5 a positioning device which executes positioning to obtain positional information;

a series photographing instruction device which provides a series photographing instruction to said photographing device to carry out series photographing;

10 a series photographing controller which performs such control as to cause said photographing device to execute series photographing to acquire a plurality of photographed images in response to said series photographing instruction given by said series photographing instruction device;

15 a first positioning timing controller which controls said timing in such a way that said positioning device executes positioning to acquire first positional information before or immediately after said series photographing instruction is given by said series photographing instruction device;

20 a second positioning timing control device which controls said timing in such a way that said positioning device executes positioning to acquire second positional information immediately before or immediately after series photographing by said series photographing control device is finished;

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25 a positional information computing device which computes new  
positional information using said first and second positional  
information;

a memory which stores said plurality of photographed images  
acquired under control of said series photographing controller;  
and

30 a memory controller which stores said positional information  
obtained by said positioning device in said memory in association  
with said plurality of photographed images acquired by said  
photographing device,

35 wherein said memory controller stores said positional  
information computed by said positional information computing  
device in said memory in association with said plurality of  
photographed images acquired by said series photographing  
controller.

Claims 40-44 (Cancelled).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:  
photographing means;

positioning means;

positioning timing control means for causing said

5 positioning means to execute positioning at a predetermined

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timing asynchronous to a photographing timing of said  
photographing means to thereby obtain positional information;  
memory means for storing a plurality of images photographed  
by said photographing means; and

10 memory control means for storing said positional information  
obtained by said positioning timing control means in said memory  
means in association with said plurality of photographed images,  
wherein said predetermined timing for obtaining said  
positional information is when a date is changed.

Claim 46 (Previously Presented). A camera comprising:

photographing means;

positioning means;

positioning timing control means for causing said

5 positioning means to execute positioning at a predetermined  
timing asynchronous to a photographing timing of said  
photographing means to thereby obtain positional information;

memory means for storing a plurality of images photographed  
by said photographing means; and

10 memory control means for storing said positional information  
obtained by said positioning timing control means in said memory  
means in association with said plurality of photographed images,

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wherein said predetermined timing for obtaining said positional information is when a folder for storing an image photographed by said photographing means is changed or newly provided.

Claims 47-66 (Cancelled).

Claim 67 (Currently Amended). A camera comprising:  
positioning timing determination means for determining a positioning timing under a predetermined condition;  
positioning means for executing positioning at the  
5 positioning timing determined by the positioning timing determination means to thereby acquire positional information;  
instruction means for receiving a photographing instruction at an arbitrary timing;  
image storing means for storing a photographed image in  
10 accordance with the photographing instruction received by the instruction means;  
positional information storing means for storing the positional information acquired by the positioning means in association with the photographed image stored by the image  
15 storing means;

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overlapping determination means for determining ~~overlapping~~  
~~of whether~~ the positioning timing determined by the positioning  
timing determination means and the timing of receiving the  
photographing instruction by the instruction means overlap, in  
20 accordance with the photographing instruction received by the  
instruction means [[;]] and

first control means for, [[when]] if the overlapping  
determination means determines that the timings overlap when the  
image storing means stores the photographed image in accordance  
25 with the photographing instruction received by the instruction  
means, allowing the image storing means to store the photographed  
image after[[,]] inhibiting the positioning means from executing  
positioning at the overlapped positioning timing; and

second control means for, if the overlapping determination  
30 means determines that the timings do not overlap when the image  
storing means stores the photographed image in accordance with  
the photographing instruction received by the instruction means,  
allowing the image storing means to immediately store the  
photographed image without inhibiting the positioning means from  
35 executing positioning at the overlapped positioning timing.

Claim 68 (Previously Presented). The camera according to  
claim 67, wherein:

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the positioning timing determination means determines a  
40 plurality of positioning timings;

the positioning means executes positioning at the plurality  
of positioning timings determined by the positioning timing  
determination means to thereby acquire a plurality of positional  
information items; and

45 the positional information storing means stores a positional  
information item selected from positional information items  
acquired by the positioning means without being inhibited by the  
control means, in association with the photographed image stored  
by the image storing means.

Claims 69-71 (Cancelled).

Claim 72 (Previously Presented). The camera according to  
claim 68, wherein the positional information storing means stores  
the positional information acquired at a positioning timing  
closest to a timing at which the image is photographed, of the  
5 plurality of positional information items acquired by the  
positioning means, in association with the photographed image.

Claim 73 (Previously Presented). The camera according to  
claim 68, wherein the positioning timing determination means



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determines the plurality of positioning timings repeated at each predetermined time interval.

Claim 74 (Previously Presented). The camera according to claim 68, wherein the positioning time determination means determines, as the positioning timing, a timing coming after a predetermined time passes in a state that the photographing  
5 instruction received by the instruction means is not received.

Claim 75 (Previously Presented). The camera according to claim 67, further comprising:

selection means for selecting one of a positioning operation by the positioning means and a photographing operation by the  
5 image storing means which has a high priority,

wherein the control means inhibits the positioning means from executing the positioning operation at the overlapped positioning timings, when the positioning timing determined by the positioning timing determination means and the timing of  
10 receiving the photographing instruction by the instruction means overlap, and the photographing operation is selected by the selection means.

Claim 76 (Cancelled).

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Claim 77 (Cancelled).

Claim 78 (Previously Presented). . The camera according to claim 67, wherein the positioning timing determination means determines, as the positioning timing, a timing which is determined irrespective of the timing of receiving the  
5 photographing instruction by the instruction means and which is out of a period from the timing of the photographing instruction to a time when the photographed image is stored.

Claim 79 (Currently Amended). The camera according to claim [[76]] 67, wherein the positioning timing determination means determines, as the positioning timing, a timing at which a photographing mode is turned on or a timing at which the  
5 photographing mode is turned off.

Claim 80 (Cancelled).

Claim 81 (Currently Amended). [[The]] A camera ~~according to claim 80, further~~ comprising:

positioning timing determination means for determining a predetermined positioning timing;

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- 5        positioning means for executing positioning at the  
positioning timing determined by the positioning timing  
determination means to thereby acquire positional information;  
instruction means for receiving a photographing instruction  
at an arbitrary timing;
- 10       image storing means for storing a photographed image in  
accordance with the photographing instruction received by the  
instruction means;  
positional information storing means for storing the  
positional information acquired by the positioning means in  
15 association with the photographed image stored by the image  
storing means;  
selection means for selecting one of a positioning operation  
by the positioning means and a photographing operation by the  
image storing means which has a high priority[[,]] ; and
- 20       control means for inhibiting the image storing means from  
storing the photographed image during a period until the  
positioning of the positioning means is ended, when the  
positioning timing determined by the positioning timing  
determination means and the timing of receiving the photographing  
25 instruction by the instruction means overlap and when the  
positioning operation of the positioning means is selected with  
higher priority by the selection means

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30 ~~wherein the control means inhibits the positioning means  
from executing the positioning operation at the overlapped  
positioning timings, when the positioning timing determined by  
the positioning timing determination means and the timing of  
receiving the photographing instruction by the instruction means  
overlap, and the photographing operation is selected by the  
selection means.~~

Claim 82 (Currently Amended). A camera method comprising  
the steps of:

determining a positioning timing under a predetermined  
condition;

5 executing positioning at the determined positioning timing  
to thereby acquire positional information;

receiving a photographing instruction at an arbitrary  
timing;

10 storing a photographed image in accordance with the received  
photographing instruction;

storing the acquired positional information in association  
with the stored photographed image;

determining ~~an overlap of~~ whether the positioning timing and  
the timing of receiving the photographing instruction overlap, in

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15 accordance with the received photographing instruction [[:]],  
[[and]]

[[when]] if a determination is made that the timings overlap  
when the photographed image is stored in accordance with the  
received photographing instruction, allowing the photographed  
20 image to be stored after[[[,]] inhibiting execution of positioning  
at the overlapped positioning timing; and

if a determination is made that the timings do not overlap  
when the photographed image is stored in accordance with the  
received photographing instruction, allowing the photographed  
25 image to be immediately stored without inhibiting execution of  
positioning at the overlapped positioning timing.

Claim 83 (Currently Amended). A camera method comprising  
the steps of:

determining a predetermined positioning timing;  
executing positioning at the predetermined positioning  
timing to thereby acquire positional information;  
receiving a photographing instruction at an arbitrary  
timing;

5 storing a photographed image in accordance with the received  
photographing instruction;

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storing the acquired positional information in association  
with the stored photographed image;

~~notifying that positioning is executed in a period during~~  
10 ~~which the positioning is executed~~ selecting one of a positioning  
operation and a photographing operation to have a higher  
priority; and

inhibiting execution of photographing during a period until  
the positioning has ended, when the determined positioning timing  
15 and the timing of receiving the photographing instruction overlap  
and when the positioning operation is selected with higher  
priority.